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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEF
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN
THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY
IN AFRICA
Resumed tenth session
18-22 August 1997
Agenda item 2

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft proposal submitted by the Chairman

Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: procedure for selection of the city to host the permanent secretariat

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its decision 9/2 and following the recommendation of the Contact Group on the physical location of the permanent secretariat that met on 19 August 1997 during the resumed tenth session of the Committee,

Recommends to the first session of the Conference of the Parties the following procedure for the selection of the city to host the permanent secretariat:

1. An informal and confidential poll should be conducted among countries which are Parties at, and present on, the day of the poll with the purpose of obtaining a consensus decision for the physical location of the permanent secretariat.

2. This poll should be carried out in a plenary meeting on Friday, 3 October under the chairmanship of the President of the Conference, under the direct supervision of the Chairman of the Contact Group and with the support of the secretariat.

3. Only accredited delegates of Parties will participate. It is therefore, essential that Parties provide their letters of credentials as early as possible to allow the Bureau of the Conference, acting as Credentials Committee to review them and prepare a report in time for the poll.

4. Each Party shall indicate its preference on a paper prepared for this purpose, with a clear mark in the box adjacent to the name of the city that the Party considers the most appropriate for the physical location of the permanent secretariat. The paper containing the preference of the Party shall be put in a closed box in the plenary meeting.

5. Once this process is concluded, the box will be opened in the presence of the Chairman of the Contact Group, the representatives of the three countries offering to host the permanent secretariat and the Executive Secretary. Papers with more than one mark or left blank will be considered invalid and void and will not be counted.

6. If one of the cities obtains an absolute majority of valid preferences, that city will be proposed as a consensus decision. If no city obtains such a majority, a second and final round will be carried out to elicit preferences among the two cities obtaining the greatest number of valid preferences in the first round. The city obtaining the greatest number of valid preferences in the second round will be proposed by the President as a consensus decision of the Conference on the same day. Its detailed results will be kept secret.